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Subject Matter

Vitamin C Deficiency and Its Effect on the Life of a Young Model

Type of Presentation

Modern Drama

Approximate Length

Seven Minutes

Source

"LISTEN AMERICA"

(Women's National Emergency Committee and NBC)

1000
1000

VITAMIN C DEFICIENCY AND ITS EFFECT ON THE LIFE OF A YOUNG MODEL

ANNOUNCER Most of us should do our worrying about what doctors call sub-clinical nutritional deficiencies. That is, defects in our bodies and health caused by lack of essential food substances, but not severe enough to form a complete picture of a well established disease.

(MUSIC:)

Listen to the story of Kitty Bolton who models dresses and loves Paul Trent, struggling engineer who has just returned from a six months job in the West.

(MUSIC FADES OUT AS LONG ROLLING WAVES FADE IN)

Now, he and Kitty are spending his first day back on the sand at Jones Beach.

PAUL: (FADING IN) Kitty, you're looking awfully solemn.

KITTY: Oh, I'm sorry, Paul. I'll snap out of it.

PAUL: Some handsome guy hasn't come along while I've been away?

KITTY: Oh, darling, of course not.

PAUL: Maybe Bill? You know, that big lug'll never admit you've turned him down.

KITTY: I wrote you I haven't seen him.

PAUL: Okay--Let's take a swim.

KITTY: (UNEASILY) Paul, do you mind if I don't go in the water? I-- I've been having some rheumatism in my knees and ankles-- and I'm afraid the cold water will make it worse..

PAUL: All right. Then I'll take a quick dip, and you sit here and get some sun...Come on--take off your robe.

KITTY: No. Paul...Please -- I -- I don't want to get burned.

PAUL: What! Aren't you the famous model for evening dresses that go with sunburn? Well, come on! Off with the robe!

KITTY: (SHARPLY) Paul! Stop it! You'll tear it!

PAUL: (LAUGHING) Here it goes—there, that's better—Kitty! You're all covered with bruises—your arms and shoulders!

KITTY: (FURIOUS) Why couldn't you mind your own business!

PAUL: (HARSHLY) Say—who's been beating you up?

KITTY: Nobody's been beating me up.

PAUL: Who is it—Bill?

KITTY: No, it isn't Bill! It isn't anybody--it's just that I (ALMOST SOBBING) — I bruise so easily—even the slightest bump— (DESPERATELY) Oh, Paul, I haven't been able to model dresses since April.

PAUL: (UNCONVINCED) Say, what kind of a story is this, anyway?

KITTY: And what kind of a guy are you! You're supposed to be in love with me! You're supposed to have faith in me! I tell you this is the truth! I'll prove it to you—Just slap me on the arm! Go on—

PAUL: But—

KITTY: Go on, slap me hard!

PAUL: All right, I will!

(HARD SLAP)

KITTY: (TIGHTLY) There, you see—it's turning red already—

PAUL: (STUNNED) Darling! —(REMORSE) Oh, darling, forgive me.

KITTY: I've been so worried, Paul—I thought maybe it was part of my rheumatism—but it's getting worse—(WITH A SOB) Oh, Paul, I'm so frightened!

(MUSIC: BRIDGE. . . TEN SECONDS)

KITTY: (FRIGHTENED) Please, Dr. Bradley—is this going to hurt very

KITTY: much?

PAUL: Take it easy, Kitty.

DOCTOR: This isn't going to hurt a bit, Miss Bolton. We just seal this little rubber suction cup on your arm (CLICK) like this.. Then we pump a little air out of it (SOUND) It only takes a minute---You feel it pull?

KITTY: (WORRIED) Yes---I feel it.

DOCTOR: Now we peel the suction cup off (POP) On the normal healthy person this won't make any blood mark on the skin---

KITTY: (FRIGHTENED) It's made a bruise on my arm!--

DOCTOR: (REASSURING) Miss Bolton, that confirms your blood test--- because it did make that bruise, it tells me you have nothing to worry about.

KITTY: You mean I'm not going to die of some awful plague?

PAUL: You mean you can cure her?

DOCTOR: Absolutely. We can clear up all your symptoms in just seventy-two hours!

KITTY: (STUNNED) Seventy-two hours---And then I'll be all right again...(RADIANT) Oh, Paul, think what that means! We can go on with our plans. We can build our house. I could even build it myself!--(LAUGHING) Well, some of it anyway! Maybe just a little, darling---maybe just our own front door!

(MUSIC CURTAIN)

(APPLAUSE)

ANNOUNCER: Kitty Bolton had an ordinary case of early scurvy, due to lack of Vitamin C. She was one of the many people who think citrus fruit and tomatoes do not agree with them because they are acid. The ultimate effects of citrus fruits and tomatoes

ANNOUNCER: are not acid but alkaline. Lack of Vitamin C causes the tiny blood vessels just under skin to break under slight pressure. Doctors call it capillary fragility. The resulting hemorrhage shows itself as a bruise. If all the nutritional diseases would make themselves known in the early stages, in some such spectacular manner, it would be a good thing all around.

I think all of you listening in, must have been impressed with Kitty Bolton's story and the insidious way in which the hidden hunger of malnutrition affected her. Millions of people have such half-health, instead of whole health, most of their lives...This kind of malnutrition we must root out of America, and everyone of you can help do this by truly following the rules of good nutrition.